FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MEXICAN SPOKESMAN CONFIRMS WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADOR

PY230023 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2240 GMT 22 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Feb (TELAM-ANSA)--A spokesman for the Mexican Foreign Ministry this afternoon confirmed the report that the Mexican Government has decided to end the tour of duty of Antonio Lara Villarreal, Mexico's ambassador to the Argentine military junta.

The spokesman said that this action falls within the normal practices of the Mexican Foreign Ministry in promoting or replacing members of its diplomatic corps. The source also indicated that the name of the new ambassador who will represent Mexico in Argentina will be announced through normal channels. The diplomatic mission will be left in the hands of Secretary Caamano Mendoza for the time being.

OLYMPIC PANEL HEAD REASSERTS PARTICIPATION AT MOSCOW

PY231755 Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 23 Feb 80 p 17 PY

[Excerpt] "Argentina will participate in the summer Olympic games to be held in the Soviet Union this year unless some uppermost national interest causes this decision to be changed," according to a statement made by Col Antonio Rodriguez, president of the Argentine Olympic Committee. Colonel Rodriguez made this statement at Ezeiza Airport yesterday when he returned from Lake Placid, where he had attended the winter Olympic games taking place there.

GOVERNMENT DENIES EXISTENCE OF 'SECRET CAMPS'

PY230054 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (NA)--The national government today firmly denied the existence of "secret [detention] camps" in Argentina in a statement released through the Foreign Ministry. The statement indicates that the nonexistence of such camps was fully established by representatives of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and the International Red Cross during their visits to Argentina.

In this manner the Argentine Government answered a report published by Amnesty International entitled "statements on secret camps in Argentina."

This is the text of the communique issued by the Foreign Ministry:

"Apprised of an Amnesty International report entitled 'Statements on Secret Camps in Argentina,' we wish to categorically deny the existence of such camps. This can be fully confirmed by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, which was in Argentina from 20 September of last year, and by International Red Cross delegations which visited our country on several occasions."

21,950 TONS OF WHEAT LOADED ON USSR-BOUND SHIP

PY220258 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1828 GMT 21 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Necochea, 21 Feb (TELAM)--Pursuant to an agreement among private grain enterprises, 21,950 tons of Argentine wheat were loaded aboard a Greek-flag cargo ship bound for the Soviet Union.

The Argentine wheat was loaded aboard the ship Larry L at the port of Quequen. The ship will continue loading at the Ingeniero White port in Bahia Blanca until it contains approximately 25,000 tons of bread wheat.

ITAMARATY CONFIRMS VISIT OF MEXICO'S LOPEZ PORTILLO

PY220007 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Itamaraty today officially confirmed the visit which Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo will pay to Brazil from 28-30 July.

Oil-for-Iron Deal on Agenda

PY230009 Brasilia Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Feb 80 PY

[Text] The main issue to be discussed during the visit which Mexican President Lopez Portillo will pay to Brazil in July is an increase in Brazilian iron ore exports in exchange for more Mexican oil. This information was released today by Mexican Ambassador in Brazil Francisco Cuevas Cancino.

Mexico May Buy Arms

PY242110 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0200 GMT 23 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpt] Mexico is thinking of buying Brazilian weapons, according to Gen (Nimizion Santuyo Periat), the Mexican military attache in Brasilia. General (Santuyo Periat) feels that this subject will be discussed during the Mexican defense minister's visit to Brazil beginning 10 March.

FRG REPORTEDLY CONCERNED OVER NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

PY242104 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0200 GMT 23 Feb 80 PY

[Text] The FRG is already concerned over the future of the nuclear agreement with Brazil in view of the country's economic problems and the pressure exerted by the Brazilian press, which focuses on the use of hydroelectricity as a priority program. This statement was made by Deputy Flavio Marcilio, preseident of the Chamber of Deputies, on his return from a trip to the FRG at the invitation of the president of the FRG Parliament. Marcilio also revealed that he tried to calm the Germans by stating that the sacrifice is great but that Brazil is focusing on the future and will fulfill the nuclear agreement.

ITAMARATY JUSTIFIES PURCHASE OF SOVIET VACCINES

PY221405 Sao Paulo Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 22 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Itamaraty reported today that it considers the vaccines purchased from the Soviet Union recently to be of good reputation and reasonably priced. Itamaraty spokesman Bernardo Pericas stated that the purchase--which has set off a controversy--was achieved through normal negotiations, and that he is not aware of the purchase price. He also said that France and Canada were absent from the international bidding called for by Brazil because they did not have the vaccines available, and that the Soviet Union was awarded the contract.

MINISTER REPORTS 'SUBSTANTIAL' U.S. AID TO CONTROL DRUGS

PA242032 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Bogota--Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra has reported substantial U.S. contributions for the fight against drug trafficking in Colombia. Escobar talked about the results of his recent tour of the United States and said:

[Begin recording] I (?would like) to stress, among the most important things, that U.S. Government officials [words indistinct] have a very clear view of the work the Colombian Government has done in the fight against drug trafficking. President Carter has sent a letter to President Turbay in this connection. The letter is self-explanatory and reasserts his willingness to cooperate in this important moral task.

It should also be emphasized that the U.S. Congress earmarked $50 million in foreign aid to help fight drug trafficking throughout the world. Of this amount, $16 million will be given to Colombia. This is a very positive gesture, which will make it possible to maintain and improve the campaigns to control trafficking. [end recording]

Elsewhere during his statement, Escobar said that the militarization of the country's jails is only a suggestion and that the authorities are reviewing the matter.

BEEF SALES TO USSR CONFIRMED; NO AGREEMENT WITH VENEZUELA

PA230236 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Bogota--Agriculture and Livestock Minister German Bula Hoyos has said he is unaware of any rejection by the Venezuelan cattle industry of the negotiations [for the sale of] Colombian beef to Venezuela.

Bula added that the Colombian Government cannot force Venezuela to buy beef and noted that other markets, like the USSR, are being sought. The minister said that negotiations have been confirmed [as heard] with the Soviet Union to sell 20,000 tons of beef.

Bula said: [begin recording] [words indistinct] the rejection. However, I do want to state that we have virtually concluded the negotiations with the Soviet Union, which wants 15,000-20,000 tons of frozen (?quartered) [words indistinct] beef. I hope these negotiations will be completed in a few days.

We cannot force the Venezuelan Government, the Venezuelan cattlemen or CORPOMERCADEO [expansion unknown]--which handles these matters there--to buy our beef (?or) our cattle. I am not one of those who tears out his hair in desperation and agonizes over such cases. Instead I look for solutions.

The solution we have been searching for--despite the critics who frequently make their debut in the newspaper columns or reports, often without any definite (?suggestion) or [word indistinct] or knowledged about the facts. We have been working for a long time on [words indistinct] which is practically secured. It is the sale to the Soviet Union of 15,000-20,000 tons of [words indistinct] beef. [end recording]

Cabinet Rift Denied

PA222007 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Colombian Agriculture and Livestock Minister German Bula Hoyos has denied that there is any confrontation among cabinet ministers in connection with the cattle crisis and much less with the finance minister. Bula said it is not true he has blamed his colleague, the finance minister, for the cattle crisis. He said, instead, that as a cattleman, he was one of those most affected by the [hoof-and-mouth] disease affecting cattle. The finance minister said that his office and the Colombian Agriculture-Cattle Institute have taken positive steps in that direction and that he will soon have an opportunity to demonstrate this to the country.

Cattlemen Call for Meeting

PA222009 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Several organizations have come out in favor of calling for a nationwide congress to seek solutions to the serious crisis faced by the country's cattle industry. The cattle organizations have all pointed out that the industry is experiencing one of its worse crises and that it is necessary and urgent to call a special national congress in order to outline the situation to the government and seek pratical and immediate solutions once unity is achieved.

BUSINESS LEADER PROTESTS VENEZUELAN TRADE RESTRICTIONS

PA221713 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Juan Martin Caicedo Carrera, president of the National Federation of Businessmen, has complained in Bogota about the critical situation experienced by the business sector at the Colombian-Venezuelan border in view of the hostile attitude of Venezuelan authorities.

Caicedo said this problem can only be solved at the Foreign Ministry level. As is known, trade at the Colombian-Venezuelan border has been affected in the last few days by the restrictive measures adopted by the Venezuelan authorities, which curb the activities of hundreds of Colombians. Caicedo raised the complaint at the National Supply Council and asked the agriculture minister to demand that the national government intervene to solve the problem.

SECRET SERVICE OFFICIAL SEEKS ASYLUM AT UK EMBASSY

PA231554 Paris AFP in Spanish 1848 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 22 Feb (AFP)--Amira Pardo, a Colombian secret service officer at the Caribbean port of Santa Marta, sought asylum today at the British Embassy here because she has been threatened with death after denouncing the existence of a death squad in the service. Shortly before requesting asylum at the embassy, Pardo made a statement to the CARACOL network. She served as secretary of the F-2 (secret service) in Santa Marta and, according to her, several members of the service have repeatedly threatened her with death. She expressed the belief that the Colombian Foreign Ministry will soon grant her a safe-conduct to travel to London.

BUCARAM REPORTED SATISFACTORY FOLLOWING APPENDECTOMY

PA230148 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The general condition of political leader Assad Bucaram is satisfactory, according to a physician's report following his operation.

Dr Carlos Marengo, who performed surgery to avoid a rupture of the appendix and the gall bladder, said considering the emergency nature of the operation, the patient is in good condition and resting well. He added that there have been no complications.

TEXTILE WORKERS GO ON STRIKE, OCCUPY FACTORY

PA241953 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0054 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Quito, 23 Feb (EFE)--Ecuador's largest textile factory, La Internacional, is at a standstill because its 1,200 workers went on strike and took over the company installations in Quito.

Jorge Chiriboga, a union leader, told EFE that the strike, which is of a legal nature and for an indefinite period of time, is aimed at drawing attention to salary demands.

This strike will be the first problem that Labor Minister Francisco J. Salgado will have to face since he was sworn in on Friday afternoon.

EFE was told that the workers declared the strike after they had exhausted all other means of discussion with the management.

GRENADA'S BISHOP MAKES 2-DAY GOODWILL VISIT

PA202224 Paris AFP in Spanish 2106 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Quito, 20 Feb (AFP)--An official Grenadian delegation headed by Maurice Bishop, prime minister of that Antillean country, arrived here today.

The goodwill mission was greeted by Government (Interior) Minister Carlos Feraud Blum and Foreign Minister Alfredo Pareja Diezcanseco at Mariscal Sucre Airport.

The Grenadian Government delegation's visit, according to official circles, represents a courtesy call. The delegation will remain here until Friday.

In the afternoon the Grenadian delegation will be received by Ecuadorean President Jaime Roldos in a special meeting.

GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT REGISTERS DROP IN GROWTH

PA201830 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The growth of the country's gross national product in 1979 declined from 5.3 to 5 percent according to the estimates of the operations committee of the National Development Council and the Central Bank.

However, foreign exchange reserves totaled 15,251,000,000 sucres as of 30 November 1979. Compared to the balance last year, the reserves registered a slight increase of 1.5 percent. This was reported by the Guayaquil Chamber of Commerce.

CALDERON REVIEWS RESULTS OF LONDON OPEC MEETING

PA230118 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] According to Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti, the price of the OPEC countries' crude oil might increase almost 4 percent annually. This increase would be higher than the world inflation rate, the Venezuelan oil expert said in London.

Calderon Berti also announced Venezuela's endorsement of an agreement reached in London by the ministers of six OPEC countries. The agreement is on the long-range strategy to be followed. The plan agreed on by the six OPEC nations meeting in London refers to the long-range unification of the group's oil prices.

Future oil production levels, even the possibility of shortages or surpluses in the world oil markets, were also debated at the London meeting.

According to Calderon Berti, those at the London meeting also discussed the relationship between the 13 OPEC countries and Third World development.

MINISTER OUTLINES ACHIEVEMENTS OF HERRERA'S OPEC TOUR

PA221421 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 21 Feb 80 PA

[Text] At today's Cabinet meeting, President Luis Herrera Campins and Foreign Minister Dr Jose Alberto Zambrand Velasco gave a full report on the recent tour that the chief of state has just concluded through the OPEC countries, Austria and Spain.

This announcement was made by Information and Tourism Minister Jose Luis Zapata in noting the subjects discussed during the executive Cabinet meeting:

[Begin Zapata recording] As has been stated, in the immediate future there will be a full report on the tour, the most important points of which were: the strengthening of the bilateral ties between Venezuela and each of the OPEC countries; the strengthening of OPEC itself; solidarity with the rest of the countries of the Third World--especially through the OPEC special fund, changes for which are being discussed--and a firmer and more realistic basis for a North-South dialog.

[At the Cabinet meeting]--there were also discussions on the creation of the OPEC news agency and of the higher education institute of science and technology, which could be located in Venezuela. The meeting also dealt with the unification of oil prices and production levels.

The Cabinet also endorsed [words indistinct] Margantil, an agricultural and livestock enterprise, 5.5 million bolivares.

The budget for the agriculture and livestock credit fund and the budget for Venezolana de Fertilizantes were approved.

An area north of (Los Quenques), the La Virgen River basin, has been designated by decree as a soil, forest and water reserve.

The minister in charge of CORDIPLAN [Central Office of Coordination and Planning] presented the national projects file. There was also a report from the minister of state for intelligence development on his activities. [end recording]

NICARAGUA TO RECEIVE 27,000 BARRELS OF OIL DAILY

PA230203 Paris AFP in Spanish 1613 GMT 21 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Caracas, 21 Feb (AFP)--It was reported here that Venezuela will supply Nicaragua with 27,000 barrels per day as a specific contribution of its aid to the Central American country.

Absdrubal Aguilar, director of international cooperation of the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, said the oil is being sold at $26 per barrel abroad but that in this case, $2.50 out of each barrel sold will be donated to development programs in Nicaragua. The remaining $23.50 will be deposited at the Central Bank of Nicaragua in order to contribute to the balancing of Nicaragua's payments deficit.

Aguilar said after 6 months, these deposits will be converted into long-term loans to finance development projects. He said Venezuela is thus fulfilling its commitment of aid to Nicaragua but that maybe the most important thing is the guarantee of an oil supply.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER SAYS BEEF IMPORTS UNNECESSARY

PA220444 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 21 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] Venezuela will maintain its policy of not importing Colombian beef. This was reiterated today by Agriculture and Livestock Minister Luciano Valero.

[Begin recording] [Question] Will Venezuela definitely buy Columbian beef?

[Answer] When the present Venezuelan government took office, it established a policy on beef. As a result of this policy, Venezuela has stopped importing beef. It was our opinion that we had sufficient beef and that we should facilitate using the beef supplies of national producers.

Some people said then that we were crazy, that we could not maintain that policy for one single month and that we would have to change it and import beef. A year has already passed and we have not imported beef. We have no plans to import beef from Colombia or from anywhere else.

INSTIGATORS OF STUDENT VIOLENCE IN VALENCIA SOUGHT

PA230136 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Valencia police are on the track of several individuals who provided Molotov cocktails to the students that attacked a police station at La Isabelica. According to Carabobo Police Commander Col Neftali Gomez Pineda, the individuals in question were riding a light blue jeep with license plate GAD-940. The students of the Enrique (Hernando) Nunez school were staging a demonstration to protest a bus fare hike when several unidentified individuals joined them and urged them to attack the police station.

According to Gomez Pineda, many stones and several incendiary bombs were thrown at the police station in the Valencia district. He added that the students arrested in connection with these disturbances were released today after their parents assumed the responsibility for the damages caused during the demonstration.

EMBASSY OCCUPIERS WILL LEAVE IF ASKED BY AMBASSADORS

PA232011 Paris AFP in Spanish 1929 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Feb (AFP)--The occupiers of the Belgian and Danish embassies in Mexico affirmed today that "if the ambassadors ask us to leave, we will do so."

Felipe Martinez, leader of the occupiers and former rector of the University of Oaxaca, has reiterated his request that the Belgian and Danish ambassadors in Mexico interpose their good offices on behalf of the Popular Democratic National Front (PNDP), whose members are occupying their embassies. According to Martinez, both diplomats intercede with our government so a dialog can be held, since we only want the authorities to listen to our demands.

In a statement to the press, the PNDP members, who last Monday took over the two embassies, stated that nobody is manipulating us and we are trying not to have any relations with corrupt Mexican politicking. The PNDP militants are demanding that the Mexican Government release 150 political prisoners and present 601 missing people. They are also demanding the distribution of arable land among poor peasants.

Police Clear Both Embassies

PA240349 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0321 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 23 Feb (EFE)--The Belgian and Danish embassies in Mexico City were cleared today without incident by policewomen. Early tonight several unarmed policewomen went to the occupied embassies and asked the occupants to leave. As a precaution against any disturbance, several secret police were stationed in parked cars in the vicinity of both embassies, although they did not need to intervene.

The police provided the occupants of the embassies with transportation back to their homes, almost all of them outside the Federal District, specifically in the states of Puebla and Oaxaca.

The Government Secretariat released the news 1 hour after the event occurred. The eviction was so peaceful that not even the pedestrains in the area were aware of what was happening.

Issue Warrant for Leader

PA240424 Mexico City EFE in Spanish 0344 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Feb (EFE)--Mexican police have issued a search and arrest warrant for Fernando [as received] Martinez Soriano, former Oaxaca University rector, EFE learned here today. Martinez Soriano is leader of the Popular Democratic National Front, which led the occupation of the Belgian and Danish embassies in Mexico City, which were peacefully cleared by policewomen tonight.

The warrant issued by the Attorney General's office of the Republic of Mexico is "for the arrest and subsequent trial of Martinez Soriano, accused of the crimes of dispossession (raiding of residence), illegal privation of freedom, criminal association and more," authorized sources told EFE.

The occupants of the embassies were taken to the Attorney General's office for questioning after the eviction. "Some of them did not know what city they were in," the sources told EFE, "or why they had been taken there" and were, therefore, immediately released and, in some cases, taken to their homes.

It has not been possible to confirm whether some of the supposed leaders of the occupation who acted as group leaders are being held by the authorities to determine the real extent of their participation. The reason for these detentions is due to the fact that some of those evicted today participated in the occupation of the Swiss Embassy last summer and were later released.

Police intervention came after the Danish and Belgian embassies made official requests for the Mexican security forces to clear their respective embassies.

President To Pardon Occupiers

PA241734 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0429 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Feb (EFE)--The police today reported that Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo will order the release of all those who occupied the Danish and Belgian embassies in an act of pardon.

The release of 10 peasants was originally decreed, and that of the remaining 15--including the leaders of the group--will be ordered within the next few hours.

Regarding the fate of Felipe Martinez Soriano, leader of the Popular Democratic National Front, the police reported that he had been free up to now but did not specify if he will be granted a presidential pardon once he is arrested. The Attorney General's office has issued an arrest warrant for him as the person chiefly responsible for the occupation of the Danish and Belgian embassies.

TWO BUSINESSMEN KIDNAPED; $2 MILLION DEMANDED IN RANSOM

PA241528 Paris AFP in Spanish 0019 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Feb (AFP)--Two wealthy Lebanese businessmen were kidnapped this morning by three armed individuals. They were taken from their home in a residential section of the capital. Later an anonymous telephone caller demanded 50 million pesos ($2 million) in ransom.

Esperanza Atala de Yabourg told police that she heard a noise last night on the street in front of her house and that upon looking out, she saw three armed individuals force her husband, Juan Jabourg, and his brother, Assad Yabourg, into a vehicle which sped off at high speed. She added that this morning she received an anonymous call demanding 50 million pesos for the release of her husband. Mrs Yabourg asked the caller for proof that they had her husband, but the person replied only that she should await further instructions.

RODRIGUEZ: NO STEPS TAKEN FOR SHAH'S EXTRADITION

PA230443 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Rodriguez today said he does not know about Juan Materno Vasquez's official accreditation as representative of the Iranian Government in the request for the extradition of former shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

During an exclusive interview with this newscast, Minister Rodriguez said Vasquez'. accreditation has not been registered with the Foreign Ministry. Rodriguez, who described the former Iranian monarch as an exile, said his office has not begun any steps to extradite the ex-shah and that if any cable request in this regard has arrived at the Foreign Ministry, it has not reached his office.

The following are the government and justice minister's statements to Jose Montano:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] Regarding the shah's presence here, you know that he arrived as a political exile and as such, he enjoys the rights granted to political exiles by our laws and international agreements. The former Iranian monarch is abiding by these regulations in our country. As to the legal status of the former monarch if there were a formal extradition request, that would depend on Vasquez--after being duly accredited as representative of the Iranian Government--making the pertinent request and the arrival of that request to our office. At that point, we will judge the facts according to what we know and what has been explained to us in order to adopt pertinent steps or other measures in accordance with the laws on asylum. All of this will depend on the evidence, documents presented and decisions of a political nature that will be made at the time.

[Question] According to Vasquez'. statements citing the 1930 law, a mere notice to the government on an extradition request for any person should mean that the person should be arrested and his documents seized. In this regard Mr Minister, what is the reply of the executive branch on this?

[Answer] Vasquez has interpreted the law and feels it should be that way. Our interpretation is that the decision will be made according to the documents, evidence and procedures established by the law. I cannot give you a yes or no answer based on actions that we are assuming will occur but which have not occurred. That would be speaking prematurely.

[Question] In order to be a little clearer on this matter and to enlighten the citizens, it was understood that there was a cable from the Iranian authorities notifying the Panamanian Government that an extradition request was going to be made. Is this not enough for the government to begin action?

[Answer] The cable was sent to the Foreign Ministry. It has not reached the office of the government and justice minister. Consequently, the government and justice minister cannot adopt any decision--with the president or any pertinent authority--that fall under his responsibility according to the law.

[Question] In other words Mr Minister, no judicial proceedings in connection with the shah are being processed?

[Answer] That is correct.

MATERNO IN IRAN: SHAH SHOULD NOT BE EXECUTED

PA232006 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Iran should promise not to execute the deposed shah if it wants to obtain his extradition from Panama, Juan Materno Vasquez, the Panamanian lawyer representing the Iranian Government, said today. Materno Vasquez, former president of the Panamanian Supreme Court, said in a press conference on his arrival in Tehran that he has yet to speak with the Iranian authorities about the death penalty. He said the issue of whether or not he plans to advise the Iranian authorities to guarantee that the shah will not be executed is a professional secret.

Regarding the arrival in Tehran of the UN commission to investigate the shah's actions, Materno Vasquez said he has nothing to do with that because the nature of the commission is not judicial and has nothing to do with the extradition of Reza Pahlavi.

Materno Vasquez refused to indicate how long he will stay in Iran. He said he does not know if he will return to Panama with all the evidence for the extradition action. Asked if the commission's report could contribute to the extradition, the Panamanian lawyer said that was an intelligent question because all existing evidence will be used.

GRENADA PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES ON SURPRISE VISIT

PA242315 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2234 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Panama City, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop unexpectedly arrived today in Paitilla Airport, in the downtown area.

According to those present, Bishop was received at the airport by Panamanian Vice President Ricardo de la Espriella and Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores. Prime Minister Bishop was coming from Managua, where he attended events commemorating another anniversary of the assassination of Gen Augusto Sandino, who is hailed as the "father of the Sandinist revolution."

Although nothing has been officially announced in connection with Bishop's presence in Panama, it has been learned that he will meet with ranking Panamanian officials. According to spokesmen in the hotel where he is staying, Bishop's stay will be brief.

SPADAFORA SAYS HIS ACTIVITIES SUPPORT GOVERNMENT

PA231637 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 21 Feb 80 pp 1-A, 8-A PA

[Text] "Im surprised at rumors that I have joined the opposition; I remain loyal and true to Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, leader of Panama's revolution," Dr Hugo Spadafora, who commanded the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade in the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship, has told MATUTINO.

"The fact that I criticize the process good-naturedly and have my differences, as in the case of the former shah of Iran, does not mean I oppose the government," he added. He went on: "My recent meeting with 'Arafat was held in support of President Royo's policy on the Palestinian issue." Regarding a possible meeting between General Torrijos and Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, Dr Spadafora said "Polls show that the Panamanian people want those two leaders to reach an agreement for the welfare of all Panamanians."

ECONOMY MINISTERS DISCUSS COMMON MARKET SITUATION

PA242310 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2026 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Jose, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The 22d meeting of Central American economy ministers will give full support to the Nicaraguan Government in its efforts to refinance its foreign debt.

The ministers met until late Saturday night in San Jose to discuss a number of points regarding the Central American Common Market, composed of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Although Honduras withdrew from the Common Market in 1969, it is participating in the group's decisions.

The ministers decided to urge the international community to grant financial support for the reconstruction of Nicaragua, which was devastated by a civil war from September 1978 to July 1979.

Until safeguard measures are adopted, it was decided that Nicaragua should apply flexibly the instruments which regulate the operation of the CACM so it can overcome its supply problems and achieve the immediate reactivation of its economy. Those measures can be applied as long as they do not harm the other member countries.

The economy ministers also decided to ask the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) to study the possibility of having Central America jointly sign trade agreements with third countries, particularly those of the Caribbean area.

As for the supply of basic grains, they decided to seek an exchange of such products to permit the stabilization of prices and guarantee supplies. Regarding this point, SIECA, in cooperation with the Central American Corrdinating Commission of Marketing and Stabilization of Prices, will analyze the application of the "Limon Protocol" and the competition of national institutions. The "Limon Protocol" was approved several years ago in the Costa Rican port of Limon. It regulates trade in basic grain in Central America.

The ministers also decided that Costa Rican Economy Minister Fernando Altmann Ortiz will be Central America's representative in negotiations with third countries to obtain preferential treatment in the supply of petroleum for Central America.

Costa Rican Minister Speaks

PA241954 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Central American economy ministers are meeting in San Jose to review the area's economic situation and study the restructuring of the Central American Common Market [CACM]. Costa Rican Economy Minister Fernando Altmann Ortiz opened the conference.

We must seriously consider the future of the Central American isthmus as a whole and we cannot afford the luxury of retreating or becoming stagnant in our development, Altmann said in his speech yesterday inaugurating the meeting.

We are proud that you have chosen San Jose to hold this meeting. The points to be discussed will be of great significance for the future of our nations, he added.

Even though the CACM has been criticized by some people, it continues to be a good option for the development of our economy, the minister noted. For this reason, we must do everything in our power to give this body the necessary mechanisms to enable it to overcome the negative effects of the circumstances that have been harming it and our economy.

We must act in the understanding that the international economic situation has changed very much in the last decade and that, regrettably, it has changed to the detriment of the underdeveloped countries. The situation does not look too bright and that is why we must redouble efforts and act jointly for everybody's benefit. Otherwise, we would be jeopardizing our economies, Altmann said.

COSTA RICA

U.S. HAS NOT OFFERED MILITARY AID

PA231552 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0027 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Jose, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican Public Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria has told this agency that the U.S. Government has not offered military aid to Costa Rica.

Newsmen had asked him about this possibility in view of announcements that Washington has offered military aid to the Salvadoran Government so it can confront the extreme left, which is fighting it vigorously.

According to Echeverria, the United States has not made any offer in this connection. "Moreover," he said, "the few tear gas grenades we had to buy a few days ago had to be paid for in advance."

Costa Rica, a country without an army, does not have a military mission in the United States. Its contacts in this area with the U.S. Government are carried out through the military attache at the U.S. Embassy here.

RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY VISAS TO BE EASED

PA241958 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The General Immigration Directorate has drafted a program that will expedite the issuance of visas to people whose entry inbo our country has been restricted for several years. General Immigration Director Jorge Alvarez made the annoucement. The people who have been prevented from entering our country expeditiously are citizens of the socialist countries, Argentina, Chile and Jamaica.

PAPER REPORTS PANAMANIAN GUARD BORDER MOBILIZATION

PA232151 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1846 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Jose, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--One thousand Panamanian soldiers are in the Piedra Candela region on the Costa Rican border presumably searching for guerrillas camps, the local morning paper LA REPUBLICA reports today.

Since November it has been reported that Panamanian dissidents are allegedly training on the border to organize guerrilla actions against President Aristides Royo's government.

In fact, in early February, on the occasion of a visit by the Panamanian chief of state to Costa Rica, he signed a joint declaration with his Costa Rican counterpart Rodrigo Carazo Odio whereby the two governments committed themselves to preventing the operation of armed groups who are seeking to create problems in the friendly countries.

The Costa Rican public security minister has revealed that traces of apparent training camps have been detected in the southern region of this country adjoining the Panamanian border. In view of this situation, 350 civil guards began combing that region on Thursday of this week.

LA REPUBLICA carries a statement by Maj Claudio Lopez of the Costa Rican southern command who has confirmed the presence of Panamanian soldiers at Piedra Candela. Border inhabitants have claimed to have seen Panamanian National Guard helicopters overflying the Panamanian side of the region. Thus far the Costa Rican police (this country does not have a formal or legally constituted army) has not come across any of the Panamanian rebels.

The Civil Guardsmen have been instructed by their superiors to arrest any armed person seen along the border region. The contingent is led by Cols Fernando Nunez, director general of the public force and Alvaro Sanchez Monestel. Sanchez Monestel led similar military operations 10 years ago when Panamanian guerrillas in the region clashed with Costa Rican police. The National Guard will remain in the area until it is absolutely certain that no camps exist.

Minister Echeverria Brealey explained that a few days before the National Guardsmen entered the rugged border mountains, all access routes to the region were blocked.

EL SALVADOR

ATTORNEY GENERAL FILES CHARGES AGAINST D'AUBUISSON

PA210532 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1307 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Dr Mario Zamora Rivas, attorney general of the republic, has filed personal charges against Maj Roberto D'Aubuisson on the basis of a television statement in which D'Aubuisson accused Zamora Rivas of being the contact between the Christian Democratic Party and the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces [FPL].

Zamora Rivas said Major D'Aubuisson, in addition to being guilty of slander, is an unworthy military officer because of his behavior in the eyes of the Salvadoran people. Dr Mario Zamora Rivas said he is accusing the officer of defamation in the first degree.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ZAMORA ASSASSINATED 22 FEBRUARY

PA241457 Paris AFP in Spanish 1438 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Feb (AFP)--Six individuals last night assassinated Salvadoran Attorney General Mario Zamora at his home, it was learned this morning.

Six unidentified individuals broke into a family gathering at Zamora's house, dragged him into the bathroom and shot him to death.

Zamora was the brother of Christian Democratic leader Ruben Zamora, whose party today blamed retired Maj Roberto Davidson for the assassination.

A few days ago Davidson accused the late attorney general of being a member of the extreme left popular liberation forces.

Armed elements last night also harassed the army's general staff headquarters in San Salvador for 20 minutes. The guards responded and calm was quickly restored. No casualties were reported.

PDC Accuses D'Aubuisson

PA240333 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1321 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Communique issued by Christian Democratic Party in San Salvador on 23 February--read by Melvi Orellana]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] with profound sorrow informs the Salvadoran people that at approximately 0200 today six masked assassins armed with G-3 and M-16 rifles broke into the home of our fellow partisan Mario Zamora Rivas, attorney general of the poor, located in Vista Hermosa district in this city, where he and his family were gathered.

The assassins immediately forced everyone to lie on the floor face down and asked each one to give his name. This they did because they said they did not want to commit an injustice. When Mario Zamora gave his name, they asked him to get up and took him to another room. Anyone who tried to raise his head to see where they were taking him was hit on the head with a rifle butt. They also asked for the keys to the front door, but they did not get them so they had to leave through the roof, the same way they entered.

Everything occurred so fast and with such precision that Zamora's wife and guests thought that he had been kidnaped inasmuch as they had not heard any noise. It was not until they opened the door to the bathroom that they found Zamora's bloodstained body full of bullets which were apparently fired from a weapon with a silencer.

On reporting to the nation such a shameful incident, the PDC blames Maj Roberto D'Aubuisson and the gang of assassins of the extreme right for this crime, because there is an evident connection between what D'Aubuisson, a sinister figure, said on television and the criminal act which took the life of a valuable citizen who had served disinterestedly the noblest causes of the Salvadoran people. The PDC reiterates its opposition to the use of violence which is staining our suffering nation with blood.

The PDC also wishes to express its condolences to his widow, children, parents and brothers and invites the Salvadoran people to the funeral which will take place at 1600 today in Cojutepeque, the hometown of Mario Zamora Rivas.

For social justice within a regime of authentic democracy, the Christian Democratic Party.

White Warriors Claim Responsibility

PA231540 Paris AFP in Spanish 1529 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Feb (AFP)--The extreme rightwing White Warriors Union (UGB) has claimed credit for the assassination of Attorney General Mario Zamora, who was killed in his home in south San Salvador early this morning. Zamora was 46 and was the founder of Christian Democracy in El Salvador. He was in his house when six unidentified individuals shot him to death.

TEACHERS LEAVE EDUCATION MINISTRY DEPARTMENT

PA232355 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1412 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Members of the National Association of Salvadoran Educators (ANDES) at approximately 1730 yesterday left the Education Ministry Teachers Welfare Offices which they had occupied. Education Minister Eduardo Benjamin Colindres, who was present, said he had granted ANDES representatives an interview to discuss the situation but not to negotiate. Minister Colindres added that officials at the Education Ministry are looking after the teachers interests, but that they are opposed to violence because the country must solve its problems in a democratic way.

FENASTRAS OFFICES DESTROYED BY POWERFUL BOMB

PA241652 Paris AFP in Spanish 1607 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Feb (AFP)--The offices of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS), affiliated with the Leftist United Popular Action Front, were dynamited today, allegedly by an ultrarightist group.

The explosion destroyed the old house which served as FENASTRAS offices. It also affected neighboring buildings but did not cause any personal injuries. It was unofficially reported that the assailants looted the place after the explosion, taking the FENASTRAS files with them.

Meanwhile, the funeral of Mario Zamora, Christian Democratic party member and the country's attorney general, was held in Cojutepeque, 28 km east of San Salvador. Zamora was assassinated by another ultrarightist group which has not been identified yet. According to the forensic surgeon, Zamora was killed by 10 bullets in his back.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS STRIKE, ANEP LOCKOUT POSSIBLE

PA230426 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Report from San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU by newsman Carlos Samayoa--recorded]

[Text] One of today's most important events is the strike by workers of the National Communications Administration [ANTEL]. Yesterday these workers carried out a similar action. They seized ANTEL's main building, Roma, in San Salvador and decreed a strike because of the dismissal of four of their fellow workers. However, a partial agreement was reached later. A commission willing to work to solve the problem was appointed but the only solution the workers will accept is the rehiring of the four dismissed workers.

As a result of this situation at 1000 San Salvador local time today, the ANTEL workers again declared a general and indefinite strike. This general strike does not necessarily mean the suspension of all communications but simply that the workers will cease working. All the necessary instruments, which operate automatically, remain in operation. A problem could arise if there is any technical failure because this failure will not be repaired due to the strike decreed by ANTEL technicians. ANTEL is in charge of telecommunications in El Salvador.

The ANTEL workers have charged that there is a military cordon around the San Miguelito office. ANTEL has several offices in El Salvador.

One of them is in San Miguelito and has been surrounded by soldiers. The workers have demanded this cordon be dismantled before they will continue with the negotiations. They have threatened that if this is not done they will take more severe measures. These measures could include the complete suspension of communications.

Meanwhile there is something else that is also being discussed: a national lockout by the private enterprise sector, the sector that manages the financial sector of our country.

This national lockout could have a twofold objective. In the last few days there has been much talk about a plot involving a rightist coup d'etat. The truth is that at this moment we cannot talk about a coup d'etat taking place because the fact is that the coup has been taking place since the Christian Democrats took power some time ago. This means that the general lockout announced by the private enterprise could be considered an important step by these people to destabilize the government, which is already rather unstable because it is unable to maintain an equilibrium or control over either of the two extremes, the extreme right and the extreme left, which continue provoking serious disturbances and difficulties throughout the nation.

We could suppose that the planned general lockout will begin on Monday. This would affect all the factory members of the National Association of the Private Enterprise [ANEP]. The strike would also include all the radio station members of the National Association of Radio Broadcasting Businessmen. The strike would also include all the television stations and the country's most important newspapers.

The lockout could apparently last 3 days, but unofficial sources have said that the lockout could last indefinitely.

There has been no official report on the objective of this lockout. It has been unoffically said, however, that the purpose is to force the withdrawal of the Christian Democrats from our country, that is the withdrawal of the Christian Democrats from the government. This is something, however, that will be clear next week as events develop along with this general strike by private enterprise that would include factories, radio, television and newspapers--all the communications media.

At 2000 on Sunday, there will probably be a radio and television network to announce that these communications media will join the general strike. However, the decision will be adopted on Sunday. It will all depend on a convention that the Christian Democracts will hold on Sunday for the purpose, apparently, of taking a position to continue in the government or to withdraw from it.

This is something we will report from San Salvador, on Sunday--when the national convention takes place--to all our Panamanian listeners. It could be that the general strike announced by ANEP could take place, or could be called off based on the results of that convention.

RUMORS OF 25 FEBRUARY GENERAL STRIKE INCREASE

PA222021 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1750 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] In the past few hours rumors have been circulating about a possible general strike in El Salvador sponsored by powerful economic interests with the apparent objective of overthrowing the current revolutionary government junta. Government sources which were questioned indicated that high-ranking government officials have been notified of this rumor, which gained strength today.

Workers at some companies in San Salvador and the interior have begun to be paid their wages today, something which usually occurs at the end of the month. This action has led to more rumors.

This week, the United Popular Action Front [FAPU] publicly charged that the Salvadoran rightwing, in alliance with rightwing circles in Guatemala, is planning a coup d'etat.

The rumors about a general strike increased today when the word spread among popular sectors that they should store food because of what will begin on Monday. The rumors say that the strike will begin on 25 February.

On 20 February, the leftist-leaning Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS) held a strike for several hours but it was not very successful.

TERRORIST VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO ROCK COUNTRY

PA222159 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1755 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Edgard Jose Beneke, brother of former Salvadoran Minister of Education Walter Beneke Medina, was murdered today by several unidentified persons who attacked him at his ranch 43 km west of San Salvador. Beneke, who was seriously injured together with Juan Jose Castaneda, died early this morning in a San Salvador hospital. Eyewitnesses suspect that the attack was carried out by leftists.

Meanwhile judicial authorities have begun to investigate the machinegunning yesterday afternoon of two law students employed by the government. They were killed in the northern part of San Salvador, a part of the wave of political violence convulsing this small Central American country.

In Santa Ana, 66 km west of this capital, members of the Marxist Farabundo Mart Popular Liberation Forces killed night watchman Ernesto de Jesus Rivas Thursday night, shortly after he began his shift.

All Salvadoran sectors are living in fear of leftist or rightist terrorism. The right is trying to keep communism from taking over the country and the left is trying to seize political power.

Today several unidentified persons kidnaped Maria Alicia Garcia de Melendez, a secretary. Her relatives say she is not connected with any political movement. The kidnaping took place in San Salvador, where laborers and workers of the national telecommunications administration [ANTEL] are on a partial strike demanding the rehiring of five employees dismissed for various reasons. ANTEL and the workers are negotiating. The five dismissed workers in the meantime are staying at the offices of the Salvadoran University Student General Association where they will hold a news conference this afternoon. Members of the leftist People's Revolutionary Bloc have been in contact with the five former ANTEL workers. The reason for their dismissal has not been revealed, but it was learned that they are blamed for having organized an ANTEL laborers and workers association which has already made economic demands.

Police officer Rene Antonio Maldonado Rodriguez died this morning at the San Salvador Military Hospital from bullet wounds inflicted by unidentified persons as he was patrolling in San Salvador.

Various parts of El Salvador have lived through a turbulent day due to propaganda operations by Marxist groups who are seeking political power through the use of force.

Many lawyers who participated in the National Conciliation Party formerly in power, have publicly protested Decree 114 which gives the Revolutionary Government Junta broad powers to work for the benefit of all Salvadorans.

GOVERNMENT JUNTA ACCUSES RIGHTISTS OF PLOTTING COUP

PA250436 Paris AFP in Spanish 0414 GMT 25 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Feb (AFP)--In a communique released Sunday evening, the Salvadoran Government junta accused the extreme right of plotting a coup against the present regime.

According to the government's communique, those groups want to establish a successional regime similar to that of President Romero, who was overthrown on 15 October.

The communique also condemns the (?assassination) of Attorney General Mario Zamora Rivas on Saturday by an extreme rightist group. The communique states that neither these acts of violence by the right nor those carried out by the extreme left (?can prevent) the implementation of the revolutionary process outlined by the government junta.

JUNTA MEMBER MAJANO SAYS RIGHTIST COUP SUICIDAL

PA212320 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1513 GMT 21 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Col Adolfo Arnoldo Majano, member of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Government Junta said here today that a rightist coup would be equivalent to suicide. He made this statement referring to rumors which are circulating.

The colonel said that the junta is willing to make the structural changes announced on 15 October 1979, when the Salvadoran Army overthrew Gen Carlos Humberto Romero who was accused of corruption and frequent violations of human rights.

Speaking about other aspects of the turbulent Salvadoran situation, the Junta member said that order will be maintained within legal limits. He said that economic aid had been requested from several countries in order to promote the development of this Central American nation of 5.5 million inhabitants that live on only 21,000 square kilometers of land.

In regard to the nationalization of foreign trade, Majano said that this sector was plagued with corruption, thus causing a permanent foreign currency drain.

He said in conclusion that the Salvadoran Armed Forces are fully aware of the need for changes in El Salvador in order to benefit the dispossessed majorities.

CHURCH PREDICTS COUP FOR APRIL OR MAY

PA242109 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2221 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 23 Feb (EFE)--The Salvadoran church today predicted in Bogota that a coup d'etat will be carried out in El Salvador, which is currently being rocked by a wave of violence.

Msgr Freddy Delgado, secretary general of the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference, said that "people are killed everyday.

"The coup is expected for the beginning of the farm year in April or May."

Monsignor Delgado said that four bishops have been threatened with death by leftists.

He noted that "the kidnapings have produced more than $150 million and that the guerrillas use their money, believe it or not, to pay for the occupation of churches and the people who attend the demonstrations."

He said that all the social, political, economic and religious problems converge in San Salvador "because that is where everything happens in the country." He said that dead people appear in the streets and avenues almost every day. "The guerrillas continually increase the number of hostages taken with the embassy occupations."

In statements to the morning paper EL SIGLO of Bogota, Monsignor Delgado noted that the army is trying to avoid the guerrillas. "We believe that a coup d'etat has been delayed despite the first and second juntas. We believe that a confrontation is imminent if the course of history does not change and foreign elements do not interfere," he said.

He said that Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero and the auxiliary bishops of San Salvador, San Vicente and San Miguel have been threatened, [words indistinct] by leftists or rightists. "However, the government is not giving any support to the church," he said.

He emphasized that the guerrilla movement is demanding power and the installation of communism.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT DENIES ROLE IN PLOT TO OUST SALVADORAN JUNTA

PA241806 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1656 GMT 21 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Government today delcared itself "completely innocent" in an alleged rightist plot to overthrow the present Salvadoran government junta.

In an official statement, the Guatemalan Government authorities stated that the speculations originating in El Salvador claiming that a plan was being prepared in Guatemala to overthrow the Salvadoran Government are false.

"Guatemala does not interfere in the affairs of another state and respects the right of each nation to its self-determination," the communique noted. It also stated that the Guatemalan Government maintains the most friendly relations with the Salvadoran authorities as well as with all the governments in the Central American region.

Press reports from El Salvador indicated yesterday that the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation [FENASTRAS] had denounced plans for a coup d'etat plotted by rightwing military officers who oppose the present Salvadoran regime "with the complicity of the Guatemalan Government and the participation of Israeli advisors."

Moreover, the Government Press Secretariat of this country recalled that the Guatemalan Government had previously announced its decision not to allow the country to be used as a base for antigovernment activities against Nicaragua or any other Central American state.

POLICE HUNT PERPETRATORS OF ATTACK ON MINISTER

PA222315 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 1230 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Five thousand policemen are searching for the perpetrators of the dynamite attack on Guatemalan Government Minister Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz, official sources said yesterday. The attack took place Monday as the minister passed in his armored vehicle along a street in Guatemala City. The terrorists exploded a high-powered bomb as the minister and his escort passed.

Two days later the police announced the discovery of a bombing attempt to kill police director Col German Chupina. This was a still more powerful bomb capable of destroying everything within a 150-meter radius. It was found in the road to Boca del Monte where the police director passes frequently.

Two of the government minister's bodyguards have nearly lost their hearing because of the terrorist bomb explosion last Monday. Although the two bodyguards escaped apparently unscathed, they were traveling in a car behind the minister's armored vehicle and suffered the effects of the concussion blast. Both had their eardrums ruptured and need surgical attention. If they do not undergo surgery the two run the risk of remaining deaf for the rest of their lives and will lose their jobs. The explosion was so powerful that although they were not hit by fragments their ears were seriously injured.

A new underground radio station calling itself Revolutionary Worker has claimed responsibility for the machinegunning of the Salvadoran Embassy. This was confirmed in a communique which was left in a Guatemala City church.

ORPA REPORTS VILLAGE TAKEOVERS, PROPAGANDA RALLIES

PA230046 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2335 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The guerrillas of the outlawed Armed Peoples Organization (ORPA) announced today that this week they militarily occupied the municipalities of Santa Clara la Laguna and Santa Maria Visitacion, both in Solola Province.

In a press release sent to the newspapers of the Guatemalan capital, the guerrillas said such occupations were carried out in solidarity with the peasants of Quiche and as a tribute to national hero Tecun Uman. Tecun Uman was the Quiche chieftain who confronted the Spanish conquistadores led by Pedro de Alvarado and died during the combat, according to tradition. "Tecun Uman is alive in the weapons of the people struggling for their liberation," ORPA stated in the release.

The occupation of the two villages lasted several hours during which the rebels staged propaganda rallies.

HONDURAS

JUNTA PRESIDENT DEPARTS FOR U.S. VISIT

PA242110 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1626 GMT 24 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, the president of the Honduran military junta, today left for the United States heading a large delegation.

Paz Garcia will arrive in New York today at the invitation of the Council of the Americas, which comprises the most influential New York businessmen.

In the meeting with the U.S. businessmen, Paz Garcia will speak on Honduras' domestic situation and the advantages it offers to foreign investment.

Paz Garcia is accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Mari-Luci Jaramillo, Culture and Tourism Secretary Armando Alvarez Martinez, Finance Secretary Valentin Mendoza, Natural Resources Secretary Rafael Leonardo Callejas and Central Bank President Praxedes Martinez. The delegation also includes the executives of some state enterprises, personnel of the Press Secretariat, newsmen who support the regime and news media representatives who usually cover the Government House.

ARMY PREPARES FOR DISORDERS IN SAN PEDRO SULA

PA231603 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0043 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Honduran troops yesterday occupied the city of San Pedro Sula, in northern Honduras, for the alleged purpose of preventing disturbances during a demonstration organized by union and political leaders against an increase in bus fares.

Members of the army, and specifically the commander of the 3d Infantry Battalion headquartered in San Pedro Sula, were told that the demonstration would lead to disturbances and that homemade bombs would be used. The troops occupied all the high buildings. Soldiers in combat gear patrolled the streets in trucks and helicopters flew over the city. Heavily armed police and secret agents were dispatched but the whole operation was useless because the demonstration was not held.

At the same time, in Tegucigalpa, Col Hubert Bodden Caceres of the 11th Infantry Battalion in southern Honduras, said that "our army is not repressive. But violence could come to our country as it has come to neighboring countries."

The demonstration was to protest a 5-cent ($.05 1/2) increase in the bus fare in San Pedro Sula. The fare increase wnt into effect more than 1 month ago but the government had done nothing about it. The government was able to reach an agreement with the operators in Tegucigalpa, thus preventing demonstrations which had been scheduled if the increase, which had been in effect for 3 days, continued indefinitely. However, in San Pedro Sula no one has protested in an organized way so far, even though the high schools and university are full of students.

NICARAGUA

BARRICADA LINKS BAUMAN REMARKS TO CIA

PA230252 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0136 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--BARRICADA published in Managua said today that Republican Representative Robert Bauman "has admitted that the CIA is interfering in our country."

BARRICADA, official organ of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], comments on the attitudes assumed by U.S. legislators representing "reactionary sectors" opposed to the U.S. granting a $75 million loan to Nicaragua.

The discussion of credit was again postponed today and will be discussed on Monday. Bauman said Thursday that before it makes a decision on the loan, the House of Representatives "must learn of reports proving that Nicaragua is dominated by communism and that Cuba is training guerrilla forces in neighboring countries." [sentence as received]

According to BARRICADA, Bauman's statements must be interpreted as an admission by the Maryland congressman "that it is a fact that the CIA is interfering in our country to destabilize the revolutionary process. Bauman's proposals imply a series of insolent impositions which represent a veritable manipulation of our revolution," the FSLN spokesman said.

ORTEGA, D'ESCOTO TO VISIT VENEZUELA, BRAZIL, UN, ITALY

PA231249 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Junta member Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto are heading a delegation that will leave for South America, North America and Europe this weekend.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman reported that the first stopover of the members of the Nicaraguan delegation will be in Caracas, where they will meet with members of the Venezuelan Government. In Brazil they will visit Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia, where they will hold talks with government authorities. In Sao Paulo Father D'Escoto will participate in an international ecumenical congress on the controversial topic of the theology of liberation, organized by Brazilian cardinals headed by (?Elder) Camara.

The delegation will then fly to New York to participate in the ninth session of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, at which the issue of the 200-mile territorial limit, converted into law by many Spanish-speaking coastal countries, will be debated.

Nicaragua is among the nations with a particular interest in this debate after it used this principle of international maritime law to claim its sovereignty over San Andres and Providencia islands and the Quitasueno, Roncador and Serrana cays which are within those 200 miles but are under Colombian control. This has damaged the friendly relations between the two countries. Colombia has stated that it will not yield to the Nicaraguan claims.

Augusto Zambra and Laura Medina were appointed legal advisers to the Nicaraguan delegation.

After participating in the Law of the Sea Conference, our officials will go to Italy, where they will hold talks with government officials in Rome and with representatives of the pope at the Vatican.

Expectations for Caracas Visit

PA131550 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Caracas--An official Nicaraguan delegation will arrive in Caracas on 24 February to request aid and learn the details of the trip Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins will make to Nicaragua.

The official party includes Cmdr Daniel Ortega, a member of the reconstruction junta and of the Sandinist National Liberation Front Directorate, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Energy Minister Carlos Zarruck.

According to the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, Commander Ortega and his companions will meet with President Herrera, with Interior Minister Rafael Montes de Oca and with Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco.

According to the report, the Nicaraguan delegation intends to insure through the Venezuelan Government the contribution that this country will make to Nicaragua's reconstruction. To confirm this, it has been learned in Latin American Economic System (LAES) circles that Venezuela has defined its energy aid for Nicaragua through this organization and has guaranteed the supply of crude oil.

In the Andean Pact's name, LAES Action Committee Vice President Asdrubal Aguiar Aranguren has explained that of the 27,000 barrels of oil that Venezuela sells to Nicaragua at $26, $2.50 will be donated for development programs. The remaining $23.50 will be deposited in the Nicaraguan Central Bank as a contribution to the stabilization of Nicaragua's balance of payments, since after 6 months these deposits will be turned into long-term credit lines to finance various projects.

According to Aguiar, Venezuela has contributed $111 million, which includes oil facilities, credit lines for various exploitation projects and Venezuelan Investment Fund deposits.

The rest, Aguiar added, is in the form of loans for industrial development, health, education and economic infrastructure projects and donations to be used as energy capital. Aguiar said that as complementary aspects of Nicaraguan reconstruction, Venezuela will also participate in a prefabricated housing program, the literacy crusade and the culture and sports areas.

UN COMMISSIONER ASKED TO HELP REFUGEES IN COLOMBIA

PA231559 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2024 GMT 21 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government has asked the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to help a group of Nicaraguans who are apparently facing difficulties in Colombia.

It was reported here that 150 Nicaraguans living on San Andres and 50 others in Bogota, Cali and Barranquilla have been experiencing problems with the Colombian authorities ever since Nicaragua claimed the San Andres and Providencia islands and the Serrana, Roncador and Quitasueno cays.

Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry sources said today that despite the dispute with Nicaragua, Colombia will send a plane with food and medicine to help in the reconstruction and has offered seven seats on the plane to Nicaraguans who want to return. The Nicaraguan authorities will choose those who will go from a list at the Foreign Ministry.

The Colombian Seamen's Association (ASOMAR), headquartered in Barranquilla, has also offered to help the Nicaraguans.

Most of the refugees, from various cities of the Nicaraguan Atlantic and Pacific coasts, fled to Colombia after the victory of the Sandinist revolution in July.

Danilo Valle, of the South American Department of the Foreign Ministry, told ACAN-EFE that Francisco Bataglia, of the UN program for Central American refugees, is getting in touch with the program's representative in Colombia to help the Nicaraguans, particularly those on San Andres, who have been given a deadline to leave the island.

The same instructions have been given to Gustavo Adolfo Vargas, a Nicaraguan lawyer who has been appointed minister-counselor and acting charge d'affaires in Bogota until Nicaraguan Ambassador Rodolfo Abaunza Salinas takes his post.

Situation in Colombia Resolved

PA230153 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The situation of 26 Nicaraguans who are refugees in various Colombian cities was practically resolved yesterday when the Nicaraguan consul in Colombia, Octavio Sanabria, notified the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry that those interested in returning to our country have begun the process of [word indistinct] their passports in order to travel either aboard a Colombian plane or on board a Colombian ship.

According to (Fernan) Acevedo, who is in charge of Nicaraguan relations with the Andean Pact countries, those Nicaraguans wishing to travel by boat will be able to do so on board the first Colombian ship touching port in either Panama or Costa Rica. An offer to this effect was made by the leaders of the Colombian Sailors Association who, upon learning about the difficult situation of the Nicaraguans, contacted Octavio Sanabria and offered their aid.

Meanwhile Nicaraguans resident in San Andres have continued working there and, according to reports from Colombia, the foreign minister of that country, Diego Uribe Vargas, has emphatically denied that the Colombian authorities are planning to expel our countrymen.

EMBASSY DENIES INTERFERENCE IN SALVADORAN AFFAIRS

PA241959 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 13 Feb 80 p 82 PA

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] We have received a communique with an illegible signature bearing the seal of the Nicaraguan Embassy and denying that the Nicaraguan Government has interfered in the domestic affairs of our country.

The communique states: "In view of the slanderous accusations by impostors and mercenaries who have never belonged to any Nicaraguan organization responsible for the victory of the Sandinist revolution, the Embassy of the Republic of Nicaragua emphatically denies that the Government of National Reconstruction is involved in any activity against the Salvadoran Government.

The Nicaraguan Embassy also wants to take this opportunity to publicly state its strictest adherence to the principles of nonintervention and self-determination of the people.

Nicaraguan Embassy, San Salvador, 8 February 1980"

DOMESTIC TRADE MINISTER'S HEALTH IMPROVING

PA212033 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1828 GMT 21 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Spokesmen from the Manolo Morales Hospital have reported that the Companero Paul Atha Ramirez, domestic trade minister, is noticeably improving. The companero suffered a heart attack yesterday.

The spokesmen added that if his condition continues to improve Companero Atha will recover sooner than expected. He will continue to be hospitalized at the Manolo Morales Hospital.

FILM ALLEGEDLY SEIZED BY U.S. CUSTOMS

FL230159 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The Cuban film "Retrato de Teresa" [Portrait of Theresa] has been seized by U.S. customs officials. The movie, selected by Cuban critics as one of the best produced in our country last year, was scheduled to participate at the Los Angeles movie festival next month. The seizure of the film by U.S. authorities eloquently refutes to the alleged freedom of speech and creativity that exists in the United States.

FEU MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF SANDINO'S DEATH

FL231544 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1526 GMT 23 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The National Federation of University Students [FEU] event to mark the 46th anniversary of the assassination of Augusto Cesar Sandino and the beginning of the campaign of solidarity with Nicaragua has been held at the Alberto Fernandez Montes de Oca pedagogical branch in Jaguey Grande. It was chaired by Cmdr of the Sandinist Liberation Front Sergio Mendoza. Carlos Terrens, president of the FEU in Matanzas, and (Arcilio Morfio), Uruguayan FEU representative and member of the Continental Organization of Latin American Students Secretariat, spoke at the event. The concluding remarks were made by Sandinist Cmdr Sergio Mendoza. In his talk, Mendoza thanked Cuba for its aid to Nicaragua and lauded the work done by Cuban physicians and teachers who are discharging their internationalist services in the farthest corners of his country.

INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OF CONSUMER GOODS CALLED FOR

FL230153 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The Domestic Trade Ministry today held a meeting to assess its work in 1979 with the participation of delegates from throughout the country. Flavio Bravo, vice president of the Council of Ministers and member of the party Central Committee, made the closing speech.

Flavio Bravo hailed the work of the Domestic Trade Ministry last year. He said the report rendered at the meeting shows that there are many things that have nothing to do with the lack of resources that still have a negative effect. Among these is the failure to implement the guidelines of the economic management system.

The party Central Committee member said this year is going to be a difficult one because of the international economic situation on the one hand and our internal deficiencies on the other. However, he added, amid these difficulties we must resolve problems.

Flavio Bravo also stressed that sales systems must be made even more flexible and at the same time continue to expand a parallel market. We must also demand from industries that they produce according to market requirements and the demand of the people. The Council of Ministers vice president added that the quality of work clothes and of textile products in general must be improved and that production of towels, mattresses and footwear must be increased and move on to new initiatives to eliminate rationing.

Lastly, Flavio Bravo said exigency must be applied at all levels and that it should not be just a general slogan but applied at every level. He said that labor discipline and administrative authority should be strengthened and that we must be inflexible regarding cronyism, negligence, softness and other forms of privileges.

GRENADA

BISHOP WARNS CATHOLIC CHURCH ABOUT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

FL221222 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop Thursday denounced the existence of a counterrevolutionary plot organized by a group of his country's Catholic clergy. In an address to the nation carried by all radio stations, the chief of government stated that the security forces have uncovered a plot to subvert and sabotage the people's revolution. The news agency has reported from Grenada's capital that Bishop said the authorities have the letters revealing the activities of those involved in the plot.

The prime minister referred to other reports submitted by the security forces which demonstrate the attempts by certain publications of the Catholic Church to distort the programs, positions and objectives of the revolutionary government and stir up the subject of anticommunism. In the past, Bishop stressed, we have not tried to tell the church how to conduct its religious activities, and we will not do so in the future, but, because for the same reason, we will not permit the church or elements from within to take advantage of the opportunity of using the influence and position of religious leaders to get involved in counterrevolutionary activities contrary to the people's interests.

JAMAICA

MANLEY STRESSES NEED FOR ECONOMIC STRATEGY

FL222341 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 22 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Manley says that while Jamaicans are much too proud to permanently bow to foreign capital, he is not convinced that the country has faced up to the full implication of the alternative path of development. He says this path won't be any magic solution but one of tremendous sacrifice and selective self-discipline.

Mr Manley, who today addressed a group of church leaders from the United States, responded to questions about why he had called elections 1 year early. He said the country was going through an extremely difficult economic period and that it has to address the fundamental question of a basic economic strategy--the Puerto Rican model or the path of self-reliance.

Emphasizing the (?crucial) need for a great level of self-discipline in the latter model, Mr Manley said he was appalled at some of the happenings on the industrial scene. He cited what he called the terrible problem of wildcat strikes and unnecessary dislocation in industry.

The prime minister was outlining to the churchmen some of the problems faced by Third World countries such as Jamaica and the need for the new international economic order.

WPJ REQUESTS CLARIFICATION OF NEW DEAL WITH IMF

FL222302 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 22 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The Workers Party of Jamaica has called upon Finance Minister Eric Bell to tell the country how the proposed new deal with the IMF, as announced yesterday, was going to allow the government and Jamaican people to seriously consider a non-IMF road consistent with the prime minister's speech of February 3d.

In a letter to Mr Bell, the general secretary of the WPU, Dr Trevor Munroe demanded an immediate clarification from Mr Bell on his statement that government would be entering a new interest facility program with the IMF along with the request for a waiver [on IMF foreign assets test].

Dr Munroe's letter asks the minister to explain what were the conditions being extracted by the IMF over this new deal. It said the people's experience with the IMF clearly showed that the fund was not willing to give anything without demanding more hardships and suffering from the poor.

Dr Munroe said that Mr Bell's statement was causing serious confusion and criticism of the government among the progressive movement and the ordinary grassroots people who were looking forward to the government taking a new road. He said the statement to the nation by Prime Minister Manley on February 3d had raised new hopes and a spirit of struggle against the IMF and imperialism in the people, and so, a speedy clarification of Mr Bell's statement was necessary.

Bell Announces Possible Agreement

FL222324 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Kingston--Finance Minister Eric Bell has announced that Jamaica and the International Monetary Fund currently are discussing the possibility of signing a provisional agreement on loans for this year. In statements to the press last night, the minister said that an IMF official visited the island this week to examine the matter with Jamaican officials.

The provisional plan will be presented to the cabinet next week for its approval. Although he provided no details on the agreement, Bell stressed that the IMF has reiterated its insistence that current expenditures of the budget be reduced. The financial institution previously had demanded a budget cut of $150 million in current expenditures for this year. This was rejected by the government due to the serious social consequence it would have caused.

ST LUCIA

LOUISY TO VISIT VENEZUELA 24-25 FEBRUARY

FL222043 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 22 Feb 80 FL

[Text] St Lucian Premier Allan Louisy is to pay a 2-day visit to Venezuela to hold talks with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins. Mr Louisy, whose visit begins on Sunday, is to discuss with the Venezuelan head ways in which Venezuela could provide technical assistance to St Lucia in such areas as agriculture, energy, education and housing.

The visit is seen as part of Venezuela's efforts to strengthen links with its Caribbean neighbors. Within the past three months, the leaders of Jamaica, Antigua, Montserrat, Suriname, St Kitts-Nevis and Dominica have visited the oil-rich republic.